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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of

HEIKKILÄ et al

Atty. Ref.: **3952-36**

Serial No. **Unknown**

Group:

National Phase of: **PCT/FI00/00067**

International Filing Date: **2 February 2000**

Filed: **Herewith**

Examiner:

For: **METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR TREATING PULP**

* * * * *

August 13, 2001

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Prior to calculation of the filing fee and in order to place the above identified application in better condition for examination, please amend the claims as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS

Please substitute the following amended claims for corresponding claims previously presented. A copy of the amended claims showing current revisions is attached.

5. (Amended) A method according to claim 1, characterized in that the pulp feed is controlled according to a pre-determined consistency profile.